THE APOSTLE OF PEACE

by

M. R. ACHAREKAR

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By the same Author

"RUPADARSINI"

An Indian approach to Human Form.

and

"SKYSCRAPERS and FLYING GANDHARVAS"

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and

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TO

MY WIFE

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Very good Painting.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Acharekar has prepared an interesting Album of pencil sketches of the Prime Minister in various poses and moods. It is a laudable effort. I have gone through the various sketches and I find them highly suggestive and useful. This kind of artistic effort is not much evident in India and I hope more such artistic creations will be coming forward. I welcome this little Album.

B. V. KESKAR

Minister,
Information & Broadcasting,
INDIA.
New Delhi, September 11, 1955.

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PREFACE

It is the aspect and not the thing that interests an artist. It is true even of portraiture and the life he paints around him. Things assume different aspects under different circumstances which we artists call plastic conditions. It may be a ray of light as in the case of a Rembrandt, changing lines of a Calder-mobile or positive or negative volume of a Henry Moore.

It may be anything so long as it presents different aspects in different circumstances, we are enthralled and challenged to commemorate its transcendental phenomenon. The ancient bard who defined beauty "क्षणे क्षणे यन्नवतामुपैति तदेव रूपं रमणीयतायाः।" (The essence of Beauty lies in its power of revealing new aspects every moment) was prophetic in his assessment of beauty. In such aspects of men and matter, throughout the long history of art, artists have found at once an inspiration and a challenge to their creative powers.

At the same time the assessment of the different aspects of things have saved the artists from being merely political propagandists or religious zealots in assessing the life of the period.

Personally, I can hardly claim any insight into the political significance of the tangle of events in this modern atomic age and yet, I have been fascinatingly challenged by the varying aspects of the unique personality of the subject of my sketches—Shri Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru—a young revolutionary of sixty-six, champion of the poor and the down-trodden; born with a silver spoon in his mouth, and in his own words, "... a queer mixture of East and West out of place everywhere, at home nowhere, " and yet whose poignant rationalism, sublimated as it is, with the Gandhian humanism gives us utterances like "...we shall seek wisdom and knowledge, friendship and comradeship, wherever we can find them. But we are not suppliants for others' favours and patronage." Jawaharlal in this sense really is a jewel amongst men, presenting innumerable facets of his personality with every change of time and space. This apostle of peace, a restless

soul in propagating Gandhiji's ideals of truth and non-violence, is known all over the world as a political philosopher of "co-existence."

Mine is a small attempt to present the transcendental aspect of this beloved personality through my sketches of events ranging from bidding farewell to an innocent child to the diplomatic conferences spread over the five continents.

I am grateful to the numerous sources like periodicals, illustrated books, information literature and films—too numerous to be mentioned individually—which have inspired and helped me to record this great personality in pencil.

M. R. ACHAREKAR

Bombay,
10th December, '55.

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Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Indian Republic, was a guide, teacher and philosopher to Pandit Nehru. He was tutored since his entry into the Congress in the Gandhian philosophy by the Master himself.

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Pandit Nehru has always taken a keen interest in the progress of Shantiniketan (Vishwabharati University). Here Panditji is seen with Dr. Rabindranath Tagore on one of his visits to Shantiniketan.

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Pandit Nehru, the outgoing president and Subhas Bose, the president-elect of the Indian National Congress, at an A. I. C. C. meeting, Wardha.

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Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru on way to attend the National Week at Harijan Colony, New Delhi.

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Pandit Nehru and Acharya Vinoba Bhave are seen taking part in the mass spinning at Rajghat, on the occasion of the first death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

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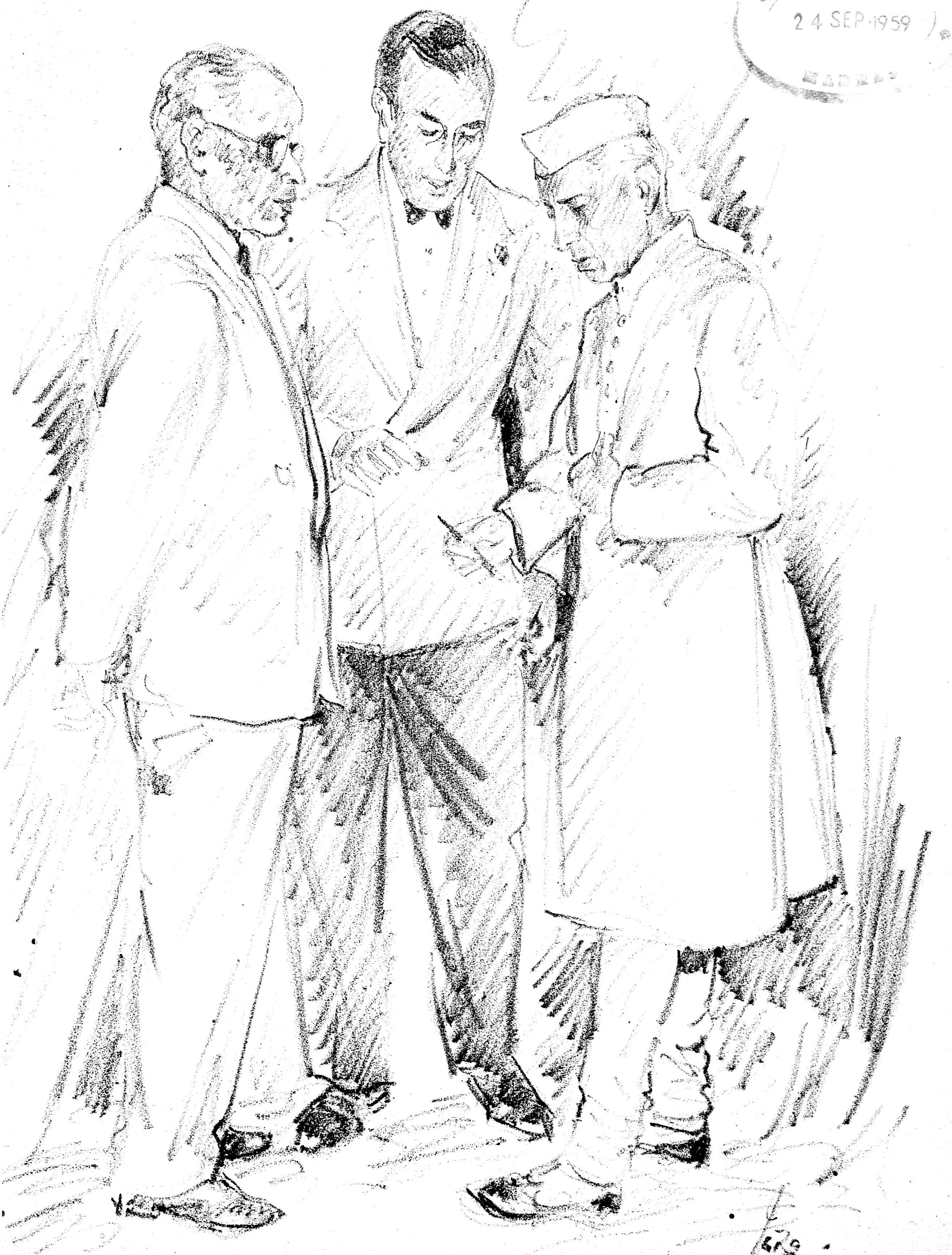
Pandit Nehru, Lord Mountbatten (centre) and Shri V. P. Menon in conversation at a farewell party to Lord Mountbatten.



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Pandit Nehru being sworn in at New Delhi in 1946. Lord Mountbatten and Lady Mountbatten are also seen in the picture.

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Pandit Nehru addresses the tribal maliks at Malakand, N. W. F. P., in 1946. The Frontier Gandhi, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, is seen seated on Panditji's left.

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Pandit Nehru visits the late Prof. Einstein:
The late Dr. Albert Einstein (left), Professor at the Princeton University, New Jersey, U.S.A., says good-bye to his guest, Pandit Nehru, Premier of India at the conclusion of Pandit Nehru's visit to the University, on May 11, 1949.

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Kaloon Tsewang Rigzin (extreme right) Zaildar and President of the Buddhist Association, Leh, and his brother Khoon Tsewang Rinchen, with Pandit Nehru who is wearing the Ladakhi dress, July, 1949.

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Pandit Nehru receives an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from General Eisenhower at a special Convocation of Columbia University, Oct., 1949.

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Pandit Nehru wishing Dr. Rajendra Prasad many happy returns on his 65th birthday, Dec. 3, 1949.

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Pandit Nehru with Bernard Shaw at his residence in England.

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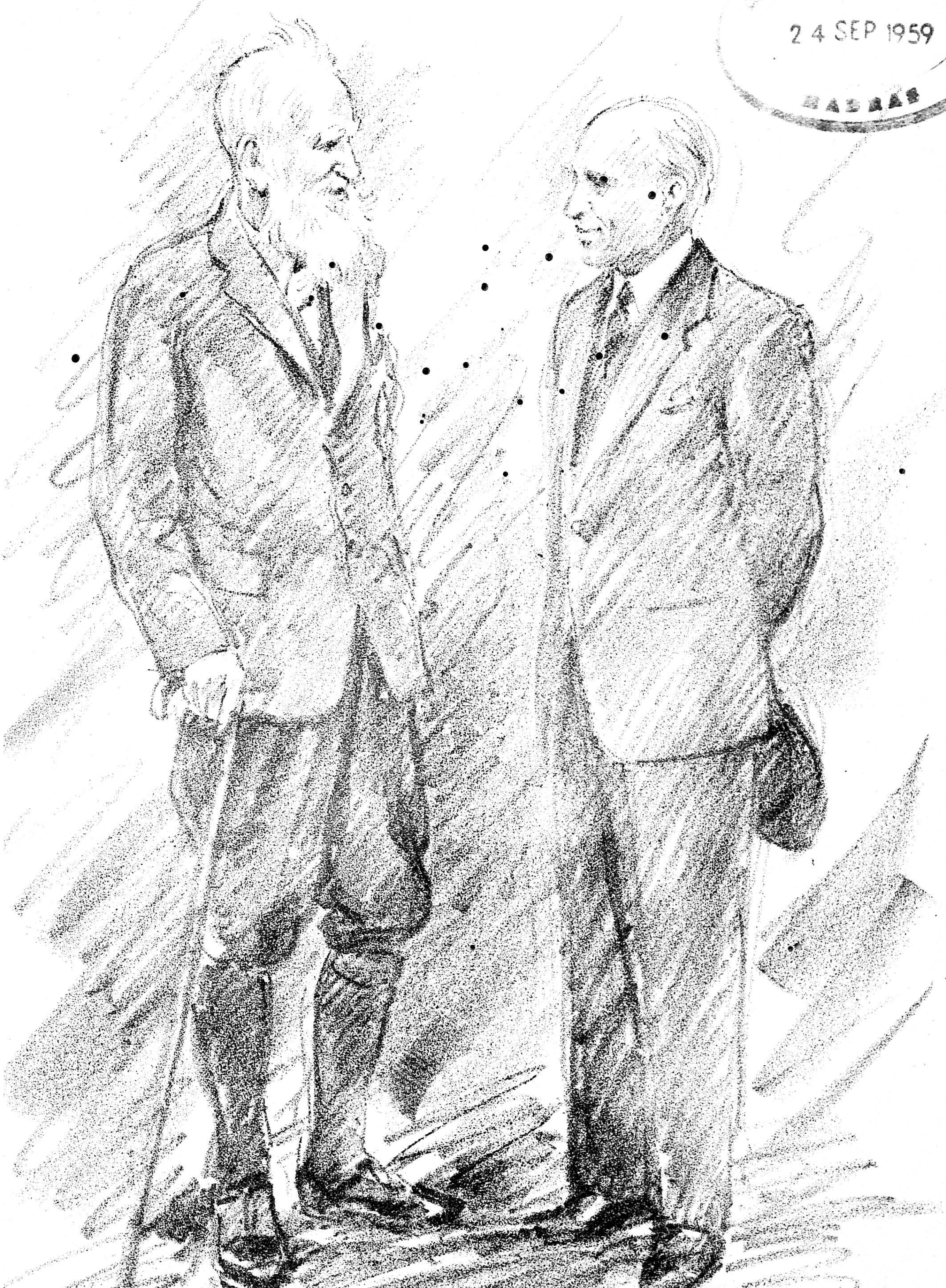

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Pandit Nehru with Sir Winston Churchill at his (Churchill's) London home.

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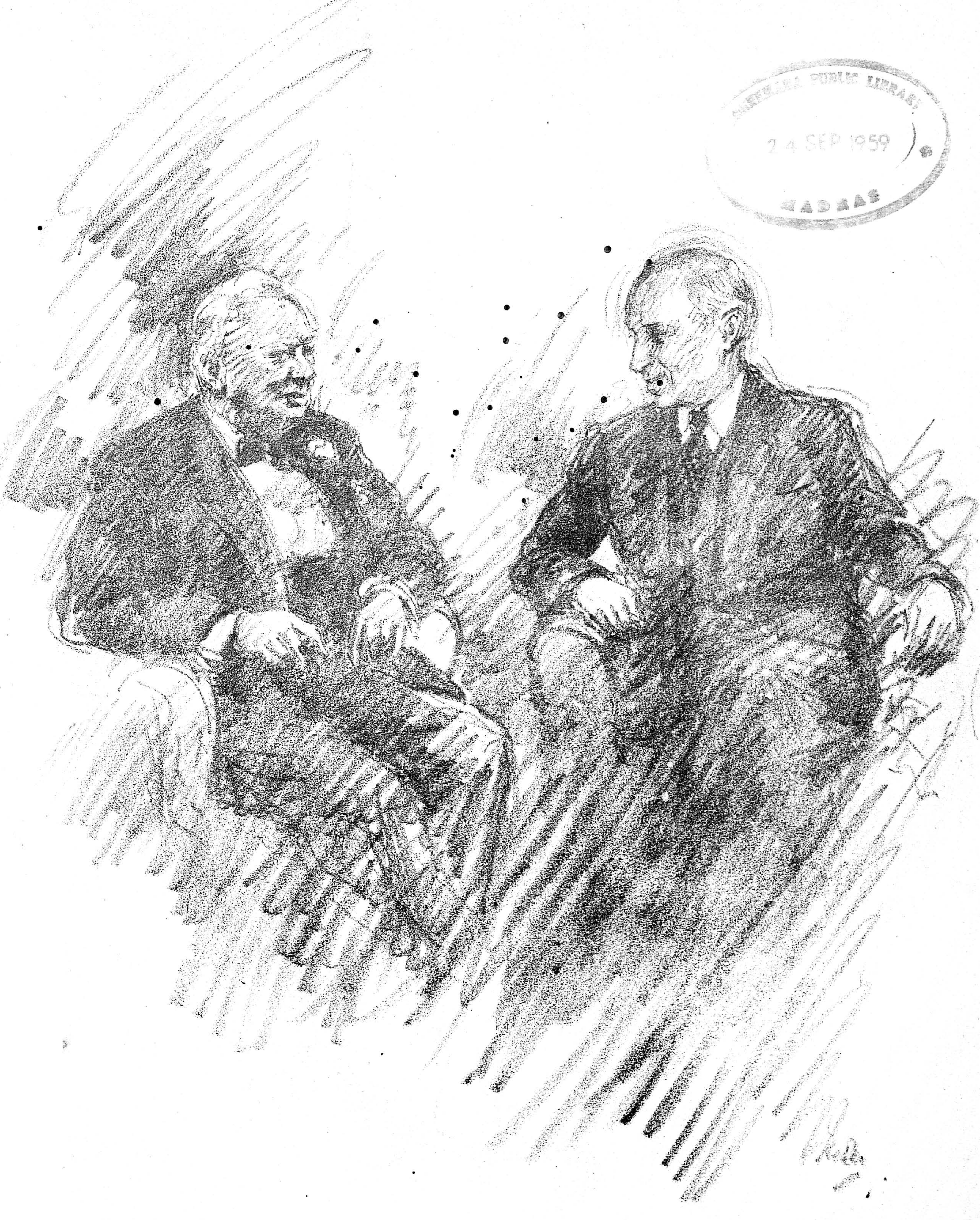

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Former U.S. President, Mr. Harry Truman, welcomes Pandit Nehru, at the airport in Washington for the first time on what he called his "Voyage of discovery of the mind and heart of America."

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Dr. Soekarno, President of the Republic of Indonesia, addressed the Indian Parliament and was the guest of honour at an "At Home" by Pandit Nehru at the Council House, New Delhi, June 25, 1950.

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Pandit Nehru in a glider when he visited the Indian Gliding Association, Poona, in November 1950. He was piloted by the Chief Instructor, Shri F. H. Irani.

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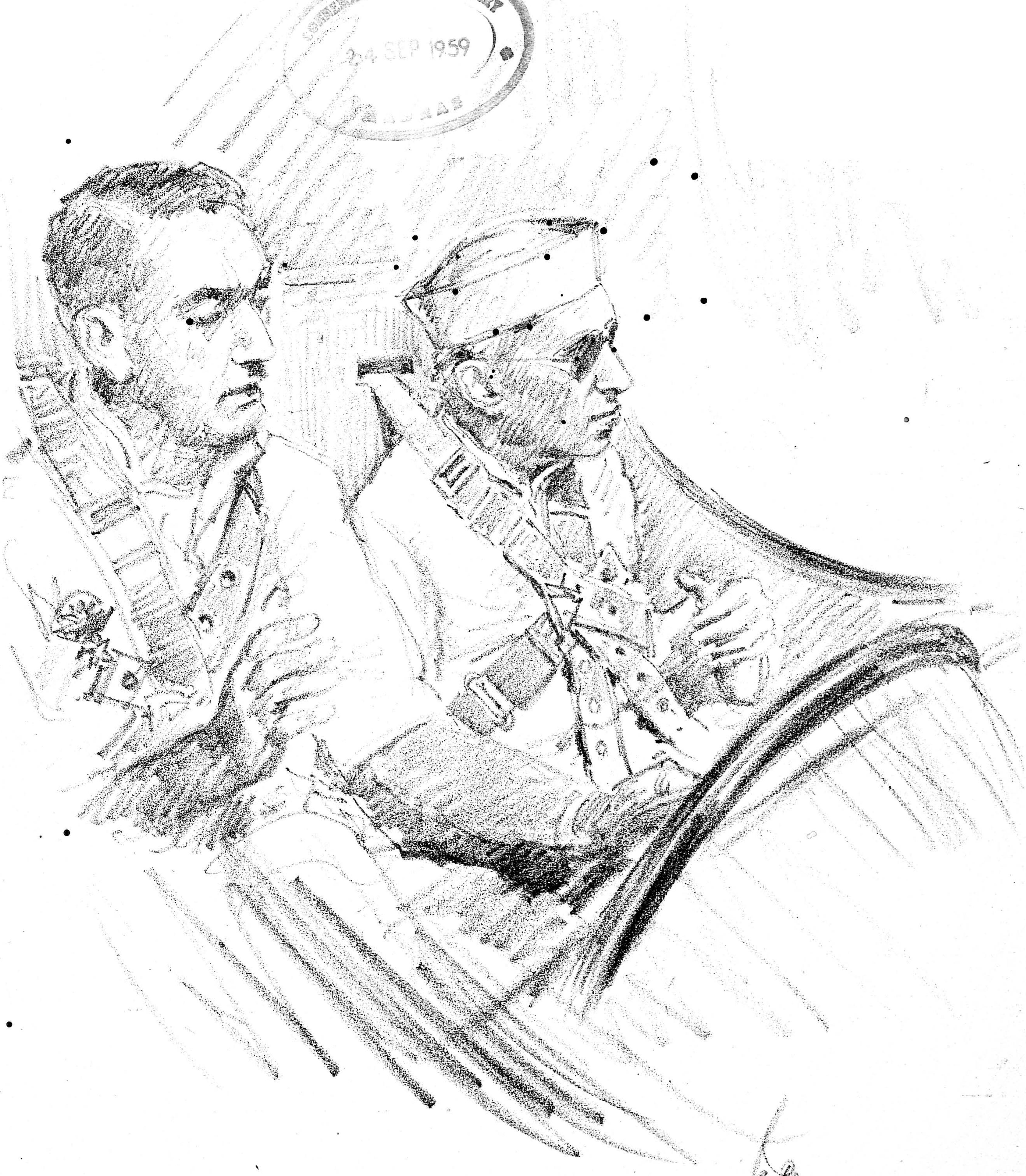

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Dr. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India, assists Pandit Nehru on the stilts presented to him by Folk-dancers of Madhya Bharat.

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At the Peking airport Pandit Nehru is seen chatting with Soong Ching-sing. With them is (in the centre) Mr. Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister of China.

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Dr. Ho Chi-minh, President of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, with Pandit Nehru at the President's official residence in Hanoi.

Pandit Nehru in conversation with Mr. Ngo Dinh Diem, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam, at Saigon recently.

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Leaving Palam airport, New Delhi, for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in London, Pandit Nehru being given a Send-off by his daughter, Indira Gandhi.

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Pandit Nehru is greeted on arrival at London airport by Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker, Under-Secretary of State (right) and Shri V. K. Krishna Menon (left).

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Pandit Nehru giving an autograph on his portrait sketched by the author at the tea party given by Panditji to the Delegates who attended the Film Seminar held in Delhi, March, 55. Raj Kapoor and Nargis, two of the most popular film stars of India, are watching with interest.

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Pandit Nehru affectionately bidding good-bye to the child of a member of his staff at Palam airport, Delhi, prior to his leaving for Indonesia on April 15, 1955.

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The Egyptian Prime Minister, Col. Nasser (right) accompanied by Pandit Nehru and His Royal Highness Sardar Mohd. Naim, Deputy Prime Minister of Afghanistan (standing behind) are leaving for Indonesia from Palam airport, New Delhi, April 15, 1955 to attend the Bandung Conference.

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Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia in Delhi on his way back home after attending the Bandung Conference. His Royal Highness Amir Faisal Al-Saud, Crown Prince, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, was warmly greeted by Pandit Nehru at Palam airport on 2nd May 1955.

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Pandit Nehru greets Begum Alya Saadi, wife of the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Ali, at the reception given in their honour by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, at Rastrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on May 15, 1955.

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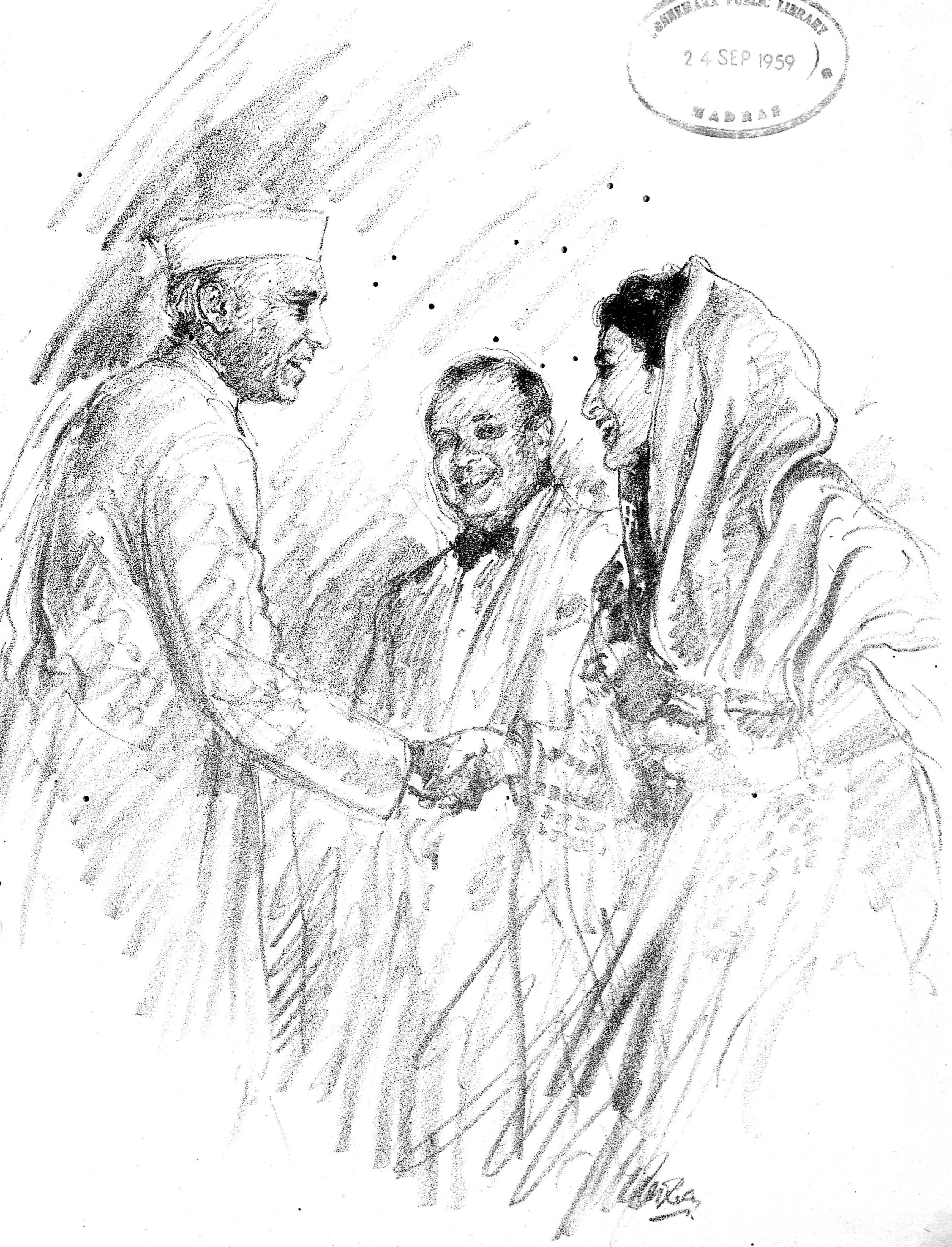

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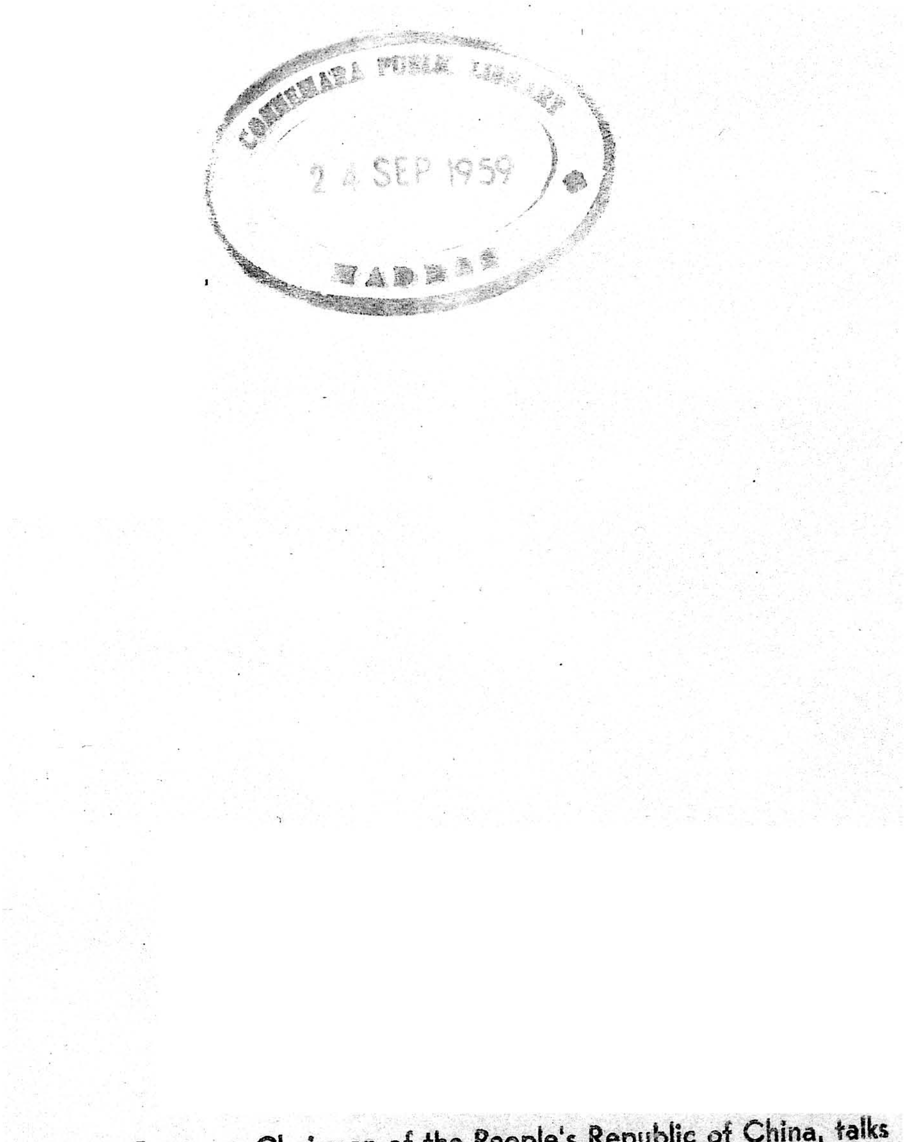

Mr. Mao Tse-tung, Chairman of the People's Republic of China, talks with Pandit Nehru, at a reception in China, Oct. 21, 1955.

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The Delhi Municipal Committee presented an address of welcome to Marshal Tito on Dec. 19, 1955, at the historic Red Fort. Pandit Nehru and Marshal Tito are reading the address printed on a beautifully embroidered ivory paper.

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Pandit Nehru with Kathakali dancers at the Kathakali Festival held in New Delhi, 1955.

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Mr. Nikolai Bulganin, Prime Minister of the U.S.S.R., making a farewell speech at Palam airport, New Delhi, prior to his departure for Moscow. Behind him is Mr. Nikita Khruschev, and on his right is seen Prime Minister Nehru on December 1955.

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